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Georgia, Alabama and  
Florida

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## A MATTER OF PRACTICAL MOMENT.

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The matter referred to is that of ministerial supply. Those to whom it is of practical moment are the four Synods of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida—to other synods also, of course; but for the present they may be passed by. If the churches already organized in the four synods named are to be cared for, and built up, they must have ministers. And if we hope ever to have more churches in these synods—that is, *if we hope to grow*—we must have more ministers.

Like the prophets, ministers do not live forever. They are men, and, like men, they die. If the pulpits vacated by death are not to remain vacant, there must be other ministers to fill them. Further, ministers not only die, but, while yet in the body, they move. Removal by choice leaves vacancies as real as those created by death. The question of ministerial supply, therefore, is always with us, and always urgent.

The foregoing statements are, of course, truisms. Be it so; they certainly prove that for our synods the question, Where can we look for a supply of ministers? is tantamount to the question, Where is our hope of growth?

### THEORETICAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

Theoretically, each of our four synods may draw upon any and all of our five excellent seminaries to supply their churches with pastors and their mission fields with evangelists. Theoretically, also, they may draw upon the candidates of any and all their sister synods for ministers. Not only so, but theoretically they can draw upon Princeton, Auburn, McCormick, and other institutions. Why not? The fact that a candidate gets his seminary training, let us say at Princeton, or let us say at Auburn, constitutes no reason why he may not serve a church in Georgia or Alabama. Of

course it does not. Provided there are candidates available, it matters nothing from what synods they come or to what seminaries they are sent for their training—*theoretically it matters nothing.*

### ACTUAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

But despite theory, what are the facts? Perhaps the following tables will be the best answer:

TABLE No. 1

Our own Seminary our main source of supply.

| SEMINARY         | Total Graduates<br>1904-1908 | SETTLED IN        |         |         |         |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                  |                              | South<br>Carolina | Georgia | Alabama | Florida |
| Union .....      | 91                           | -----             | 4       | 1       | 1       |
| Columbia .....   | 26                           | 12                | 4       | 3       | -----   |
| Louisville ..... | 47                           | -----             | 1       | 2       | -----   |

TABLE No. 2

| 1904-1908<br>CANDIDATES<br>FROM | Graduating from<br>Union | Settling in | Net Loss | Net Gain | Total Loss to<br>four Synods | Graduating from<br>Princeton, 1904-5 | Settling in | Net Loss | Total Loss |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| South Carolina .....            | 5                        | -----       | 5        | -----    | -----                        | 4                                    | 2           | 2        | -----      |
| Georgia .....                   | 3                        | 4           | -----    | 1        | -----                        | 3                                    | 1           | 2        | -----      |
| Alabama .....                   | 3                        | 1           | 2        | -----    | -----                        | 1                                    | -----       | 1        | -----      |
| Florida .....                   | -----                    | 1           | -----    | 1        | -----                        | -----                                | -----       | -----    | -----      |
| Total .....                     | 11                       | 6           | 7        | 2        | 5                            | 8                                    | 3           | 5        | 5          |

TABLE No. 3

| 1904-1908<br>CANDIDATES<br>FROM | Graduating from<br>Columbia | Settling in | Net Loss | Net Gain | Total Loss to<br>these Synods | Graduating from<br>Princeton | Settling in | Net Loss | Total Loss |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| Virginia .....                  | 1                           | ---         | 1        | ---      | ---                           | ---                          | ---         | ---      | ---        |
| North Carolina .....            | 5                           | 2           | 3        | ---      | ---                           | 5                            | 1           | 4        | ---        |
| Total .....                     | 6                           | 2           | 4        | ---      | 4                             | 5                            | 1           | 4        | 4          |

## SEND AWAY CANDIDATES, SEND AWAY MINISTERS

Each of these tables says: All theories to the contrary notwithstanding, when we send our candidates away from our borders for their theological training we send away the ministers needed to supply the Churches within our borders.

TABLE No. 4

We must look to ourselves for our ministers

| 1904-1905<br>CANDIDATES<br>FROM | Total graduating<br>at Union Sem. | Total of same who<br>settled in | Total graduating<br>at Columbia Sem. | Total of same who<br>settled in |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Virginia .....                  | 39                                | 35                              | 1                                    | ---                             |
| North Carolina .....            | 20                                | 21                              | 5                                    | 2                               |
| South Carolina .....            | 5                                 | ---                             | 12                                   | 11                              |
| Georgia .....                   | 3                                 | 4                               | 5                                    | 4                               |
| Alabama .....                   | 3                                 | 1                               | 1                                    | 3                               |
| Florida .....                   | ---                               | 1                               | ---                                  | ---                             |

This table shows

1. That Virginia and North Carolina sent 59 candidates to Union Seminary and settled 56 of the graduates of the Seminary within their own bounds.

2. That the total surplus from this large number of candidates available for service in other Synods was just 3.

3. That if the Synods of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, need ministers for their fields, they can not reasonably hope to get them from the candidates of the Synods of Virginia and North Carolina. And for the simple reason that large as is the number of candidates in these two great Synods, they are practically all of them needed and taken by the Synods themselves.

4. That the Synods sending the largest number of candidates to their respective Seminaries get the largest number of graduates as ministers for their Churches. Virginia got 35 out of 39; South Carolina 11 out of 12.

#### THE LIBRARY—HOW IT WAS CREATED.

In 1854 the library contained about 5,310 volumes. These were obtained partly by gifts from friends of the seminary, and partly by purchase, small sums of money having been given from time to time for the express purpose of purchasing books for the library. The matter of purchasing the library of Dr. Thomas Smyth, of Charleston, had previously been broached, and a strong desire had grown up to make this purchase. At that time Dr. Smyth was offering 10,000 volumes at an average of \$1.50 per volume, making a total of \$15,000. The Synod of South Carolina appointed Drs. Howe and Palmer to confer further with Dr. Smyth about the matter.

When the synod met next year and took up the consideration of increasing the library, it expressed the judgment that, inasmuch as the fund contemplated to be raised for that purpose had not been completed, it would be premature to take any action on the subject for the present. Negotiations with Dr. Smyth were, nevertheless, continued. He was induced to come down in his price, and so the board of directors of the seminary, without waiting for any specific authorization by the synod, purchased 11,000 volumes, at \$1.25 per volume, upon a credit of five years, with seven per cent. interest from and after January 1, 1857.

## A CREDITABLE COLLECTION.

This swelled the library to over 16,000 volumes, and made it one of the best theological libraries in the whole country. At that date the library of Andover Seminary contained 22,000 volumes; that of Union Seminary, N. Y., 19,000; that of Princeton about 10,000, and that of Bangor Seminary 8,000 volumes. From this it appears that Columbia Seminary, as far back as 1856, stood far to the front in respect to the size of its library; and it could challenge comparison with any other seminary as to the value of its collection, so far as English theology was concerned.

## ANOTHER FORWARD STEP.

In the winter of 1858 Dr. Thornwell went to New Orleans in the interest of the seminary. Writing from that city, on the 12th of January, he says: "My aim is to get New Orleans to shoulder the debt for Dr. Smyth's library; that is, to guarantee to us fifteen thousand dollars principal, and the interest, until it is all paid. I think they will all do it; and if they do, I shall feel that I have been enabled, by the blessing of God, to accomplish a most important work here." On the 20th of January he wrote, saying: "My mission was quite successful. The people have determined to raise in New Orleans fifteen thousand dollars certainly, and perhaps more."

## A WISE AND GENEROUS BEQUEST.

In recognition of the liberal terms on which Dr. Smyth sold his books to the seminary, by recommendation of the board of directors, they were placed in separate apartments and named the "Smyth Library." The whole library is generally known by this name, and very properly; for, in addition to the liberality already mentioned, Dr. Smyth left a bequest of money to the library. This bequest was to become available when, by accumulated interest, it should amount to \$10,000. Within the last two years this condi-

tion has been fulfilled, and now it yields an annual interest of six or seven hundred dollars, which can be used for the purchase of books.

#### LATER ADDITIONS.

Since the splendid addition, made by the purchase of Dr. Smyth's books, the library has been greatly enriched and enlarged by receiving the larger parts of the libraries of Rev. John Douglas, Rev. George Howe, D. D., and Rev. S. Beach Jones, D. D. New books have also been purchased from year to year. So that at present the library contains over 24,000 well selected volumes, making it, perhaps, the best collection of theological literature to be found in the Southern States.

#### HOW IT WAS HOUSED.

In 1853 the board of directors, when they had under consideration the librarian's report, said: "One thing very much to be regretted is the unfitness of the room at present occupied by the library. There is not space in it for the books." After the lapse of fifty-six years that same complaint is still in order. In 1855 the Synod of South Carolina resolved: "That in view of the present and prospective increase of the library, this synod considers that a new building is desirable, and should be provided as soon as practicable, and would, therefore, commend this object to the liberality of benevolent individuals and churches." The synod of 1856 repeated this resolve *ipsissima verba*. It would have been eminently appropriate for every synod, during the fifty-three years that have elapsed since that date, to have iterated and reiterated it. In the year 1857 we find the second story of the center building appropriated for the library, and the board testifies that "it is the best possible substitute for the future accommodation of the library in the building which we hope may soon be erected." The second story of the center building is still serving as a substitute for that building

which has not yet been erected. Every year the space is becoming more crowded, and very soon the utmost limit of accommodation will be reached.

#### A WORTHY RESOLUTION—NOT PUT INTO EFFECT.

We find an interesting entry in the minutes of the Synod of South Carolina for the year 1853. It is as follows: "Whereas, the liberality and the enterprise of other portions of the Church have made it essential to the character of a complete theological seminary to have a library and chapel building, four professors, and a full library, it is resolved that this synod will aim, as speedily as possible, to secure these buildings, to endow with whatever funds are now in hand a fourth professorship, and to provide for the present and prospective enlargement of the library." Here is the ideal, furnished by other portions of the Church, which the synod resolved to set about realizing at once. It was not long in realizing all except the library and chapel buildings. For some reason the efforts of the synod stopped short of these, and, so far as we know, were never resumed. The present arrangement of using the upper rooms of the center building for library, and the stable for chapel, was quietly acquiesced in, and so abides to this day.

#### AN OPPORTUNITY.

Has not the time fully arrived to complete the long-delayed realization of the ideal? Surely it has. The library should be housed in a fire-proof building, with all modern equipments for shelving and cataloging the books. In this building there should be a nicely furnished reading room, the walls of which might be adorned with the valuable pictures already on hand of the great and venerated men who in days gone by imparted such honor to the institution.